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AUTHOR Strecker, David; Vang, Lopao
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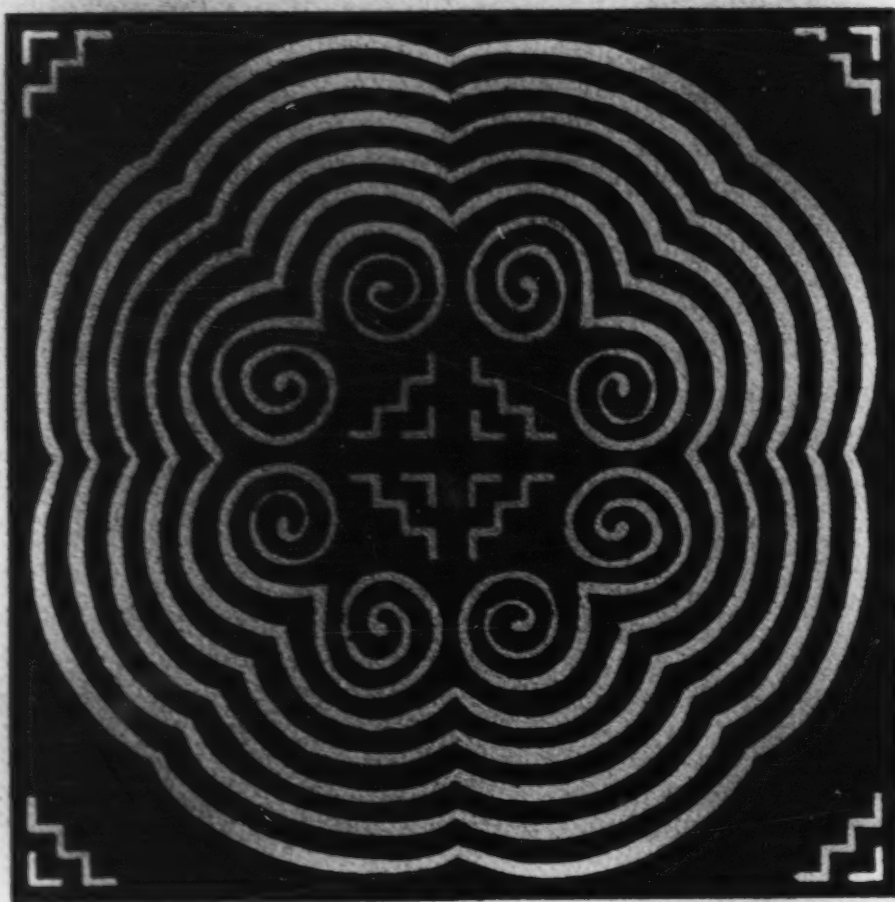
This document presents the scripts of 20 brief dialogues presented as lessons which were developed for an intensive beginning class in the White Hmong dialect. Hmong is spoken by several million people in China, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Burma, and by Hmong living in such countries as Australia, France, French Guiana, and the United States. Included is a key to White Hmong spelling and pronunciation. Each Hmong dialogue is printed alongside its English translation, and is accompanied by a glossary. (KH)

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White Hmong Dialogues

*Southeast Asian
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Occasional Papers



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Number Three
by
**David Strecker and
Lopeo Vang**

UD0 25 756

WHITE HMONG DIALOGUES

David Strecker
Lopao Vang

Southeast Asian Refugee Studies
Occasional Papers
Number Three

Southeast Asian Refugee Studies Project, Center for Urban and
Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN REFUGEE STUDIES
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Series Editor: Bruce T. Downing

Number One: A Bibliography of the Hmong (Miao)
Compiled by Douglas P. Olney

Number Two: White Hmong Language Lessons
By Doris Whitelock

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Introduction

Hmong is spoken by several million people in China, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Burma, and by Hmong living in such countries as Australia, France, French Guiana, and the United States. In Thailand, Laos, and the overseas Hmong communities there are two principal varieties of Hmong, White Hmong (Hmoob Dawb) and Green Hmong (Hmoob Ntsuab). They differ from one another in many details of pronunciation and vocabulary, but they are sufficiently similar to one another that speakers of one dialect can understand the other without difficulty. The dialogues in this book are in White Hmong.

These dialogues were originally developed for an intensive beginning Hmong class taught by the authors. They are not a complete course in Hmong. In our class we also used pronunciation drills, conversation drills, exercises and readings. The dialogues, however, were an important part of the course. The students first mastered the dialogues on their own, imitating tape recordings made by Lopao Vang, and then paired off in class to practice the dialogues under the supervision of the teachers, who corrected their pronunciation. Eventually the students found that they had learned certain dialogues by heart and when they were conversing in Hmong they found themselves spontaneously using phrases from the dialogues at appropriate points in the conversation. We have tried, therefore, to provide appropriate natural utterances for a variety of social situations.

We hope that these dialogues will be useful both in the classroom and to people studying Hmong on their own. We recommend that users of these dialogues also obtain a copy of Ernest E. Heimbach's White Hmong-English-Dictionary, Data Paper Number 75, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell university, Ithaca, New York, revised edition, 1979.

We would like to thank Mim Yaj (Mrs. My Xiong), Dao Xiong, and Brenda Johns for their help in writing these dialogues and Robins Burling, Thomas J. Hudak and Yang Dao for advice and suggestions on language learning. The present version of the dialogues has also benefited from the comments and criticisms of our students.

Note: Many of the dialogues in this book are based on dialogues in Baccam Don and James L. Brase, English-Thai Dam Language Lessons, Summer Institute of Linguistics, Huntington Beach, California, 1977. We have also adapted some dialogues and parts of dialogues from the following books: Jean Mottin, Elements de Grammaire Hmong Blanc, Don Bosco, Press, Bangkok, 1978; Lus Akiv-Lus Hmoob, Overseas Missionary Fellowship, 1978; Cheu Thao, English-Hmong Phrasebook with Useful Wordlist (for Hmong speakers), Center for Applied Linguistics, 1981. But we have made changes in arrangement and wording and we have also written some new material.

White Hmong Spelling and Pronunciation

Hmong spelling is phonemic, that is, each letter or combination of letters represents one sound and each sound is represented by one letter or combination of letters. The principal difficulty for English speakers learning Hmong is that many letters have values very different from their English values. In particular, note that:

- (1) Doubling a vowel means that the vowel is followed by an 'ng' sound.
- (2) Consonant letters at the end of a syllable represent tones, not consonants.

For example, the name "Hmong" is written Hmoob: oo represents "ong" and b represents high level tone.

Consonants:

c ch d dh f g(see below) h hl hm hml hn hny k kh l m ml n nc
nch nk nkx np npk npl nplh ng ngh nr nrh nt nth nts ntsh nt
ntx ntsh ny p ph pl plh q qh r rh s t th ts tsh tx txh v x xy y z

Vowels: a ai au aw e ee i ia o oo u ua w

Tones: (no letter) b d g j m s v

Notes:

1. The consonant g occurs only in two or three words. Many Hmong books do not use this letter.
2. In the Protestant spelling, one writes hnl and nl instead of hml and ml. Heimbach's dictionary uses the Protestant spelling.
3. In dictionaries and other materials written for people learning Hmong as a second language the spellings ww and on are used for nasalized vowels similar to w and o. These nasalized vowels occur only in a couple of grammatical particles and in Hmong books are simply written w and o.

Tones:

	Level	Rising	Falling	Whispery falling	Creaky falling
High	b		j		
Mid	(no letter)	v		g	
Low	s	d			m

Simple vowels: i e a o u w

Diphthongs: ai aw au e (with tones v, d)
ia ua

Vowel plus nasal: ee oo

Consonants listed according to the parts of the mouth used to pronounce them:

1. p ph np nph hm m
2. pl plh npl nplh hml ml
3. f v
4. t th nt nth hl l hn n
5. d dh
6. tx txh nt x nt xh x
7. r rh nr nrh
8. ts tsh nts ntsh s z
9. c ch nc nch
10. xy y hny ny
11. k kh nk nkh g
12. q qh nq ngh
13. h



White Hmong Dialogues

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM IB

A: Koj tuaj los?
B: Kuv tuaj os.
Kuv xav kawm hais lus Hmoob.

Koj puas kam qhia kuv?
A: Kam xwb.
B: Ua tsaug.
Tag kis kuv mam rov qab tuaj
dua puas tau?
A: Tau xwb.

Vocabulary:

dua 'again'
hais 'to speak'
Hmoob 'Hmong'
ib 'one, first'
kawm 'to learn, to study'
kis
tag kis 'tomorrow'
kam 'to be willing to'
koj 'you' (singular)
Koj tuaj los? 'Hello.'
spoken to a person entering
your house.
kuv 'I, me'
Kuv tuaj os. 'Hello',
response to Koj tuaj los?
los (here, it is a grammatical
particle used at the end of
a sentence to form a yes-no
question)
lus 'language'
mam 'therefore'
os (grammatical particle used at the end of a sentence)

LESSON ONE

Hi!
Hi!
I would like to learn to speak
Hmong.
Will you teach me?
All right (yes).
Thank you.
May I come back tomorrow?

Yes.

puas (grammatical particle
used before the verb to
form a yes-no question)
qab 'back'
qhia 'to teach'
rov 'to return'
tag kis 'tomorrow'
tau 'to be able'
tuaaj 'to come'
tsaug 'thanks'
ua 'to do'
Ua tsaug 'Thank you'
xav 'to want'
xwb 'indeed'
zaum 'time'

Pattern drills:

1.

Koj xav ua dab tsi?

Kuv xav kawm hais lus Hmoob.

Kuv xav nyeem ntawv Hmoob.

Kuv xav ntxuav tes.

Kuv xav haus dej.

2.

Koj puas kam qhia kuv?

Koj puas kam pab kuv?

Koj puas kam koj kuv mus?

Kam xwb.

What would you like to do?

I would like to learn to speak
Hmong.

I would like to read
Hmong books.

I would like to wash my hands.

I would like to drink
some water.

Are you willing to teach me?

Are you willing to help me?

Are you willing to take
me there?

Yes.

Answer the following questions in Hmong:

1. Koj xav kawm hais lus dab tsi?

2. Koj hais lus Hmoob puas tau?

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM OB

A: Kuv yuav rov qab mus tsev.

B: Nrog peb nyob mas.

A: Aws, tau lawm os.

Kuv yuav mus tsev.

B: Yog li ces tsis cheem koj.

Mus koj nawj.

A: Aws, kuv mam mus os.

LESSON TWO

Well, I guess I have to be
getting home now.

Please stay with us.

Thank you, but I have
to go home.

Okay, well I won't keep
you then. Bye.

Bye.

Vocabulary:

aws 'oh', 'yes'
Aws, kuv mam mus os.

'Good-bye.' (Response to
Mus koj nawj.)

ces 'so'
cheem 'to detain'
koj 'you' (sing.)
kuv 'I'

lawm 'already'
li 'thus'
mam 'will'
mas (grammatical particle
used at the end of a sentence)
mus 'to go'

Mus koj nawj. 'Goodbye.'
(speaking to someone leaving your house. Literally 'go by
yourself.' This is a polite expression meaning in effect
'please forgive for letting you go off by yourself like this
and not accompanying you part way.')

tsis 'not'
yog 'if'
yuav 'to want'; 'will'

Pattern drills:

1.
Kuv yuav rov qab mus tsev.

Nrog peb nyob mas.
Nrog peb zaum mas.
Nrog peb mus mas.
Nrog peb noj mov mas.

2.
Koj yuav ua dab tsi?

Kuv yuav mus tsev.
Kuv yuav nyeem ntawv.
Kuv yuav ntxuav tes.
Kuv yuav haus dej.

Answer the following questions in Hmong:

1. Koj yuav ua dab tsi?
2. Koj puas kam nrog peb nyob?

nawj (grammatical particle
used at the end of a
sentence)
nrog 'with'
nyob 'to stay'
os (grammatical particle used
at the end of a sentence)
peb 'we, us' (referring to
three or more people;
if there are
only two, use 'wb')
qab 'back'
rov 'to return'
tau 'to get'
Tau lawm os. 'It doesn't
matter', 'It's okay', 'No
thanks'
tsev 'home, house'

Well, I guess I have to be
getting home now.

(Please) stay with us.
(Please) sit with us.
(Please) go with us.
(Please) eat with us.

What are you going to do?

I'm going to go home.
I'm going to read.
I'm going to wash my hands.
I'm going to drink some water.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM PEB

A: Nej puas nyob tsev?
 B: Nyob os, los tsev mas!
 Koj tuaj los?
 A: Tuaaj os.
 B: Koj tuaaj dab tsi?
 Koj tuaaj xyuas peb los?
 A: Kuv tsis tuaaj dab tsi,
 kuv tuaaj xyuas nej xwb.
 Nej puas khoom?
 B: Khoom los mas.
 Los tsev os.
 A: Nej puas caiv os?
 B: Peb tsis caiv os.
 Los tsev mas!

Vocabulary:

caiv 'to observe a prohibition'
 dab tsi 'what', 'anything'; see
 note on grammar.
 koj 'you' (singular)
 koj tuaaj los? 'Hello'
 (spoken to a person entering
 your house.)
 kuv 'I'
 khoom 'free, not busy, available'
 los (grammatical particle used
 at the end of a sentence to
 form a yes-no question)
 los mas (interjection expressing
 encouragement or invitation)
 los tsev os. 'come in'
 mas (see los mas)

Note on grammar: In certain sentences using dab tsi, 'what', 'anything', the word ua 'to do' is understood:

Koj tuaaj (ua) dab tsi?
 Kuv tsis tuaaj (ua)
 dab tsi.

LESSON THREE

Are you home?
 Yes, come in!
 Hello.
 Hello.
 What brings you here?
 Did you come to visit us?
 I didn't come for anything
 special, just to see you.
 Are you free/available?
 By all means.
 Do come in.
 Are you observing any
 prohibitions?
 No, we aren't.
 Come in!

nej 'you' (plural, referring to
 three or more people; if
 there are only two, use
 'neb')
 nyob 'to be located'
 os (emphatic particle to
 soften the phrase)
 peb 'we, us'; (plural,
 referring to three or
 more; if only two use 'wb')
 puas (grammatical particle
 placed before the verb to
 form yes-no questions)
 tuaaj 'to come'
 tuaaj os! 'Hello', response to
 'koj tuaaj los?'
 tsev 'house'; 'home'
 tsi
 dab tsi 'what, anything'
 tsis 'not'
 xwb 'only'
 xyuas 'to visit'

What did you come (to do)?
 I did not come (to do)
 anything.

Pattern Drills:

1.

Koj puas nyob tsev?
Nyob os.

Koj puas (xav) nyeem ntawv?
('Xav' is understood)
(kuv) Nyeem os.
('Kuv' is optional)

Koj puas (xav) ntxuav tes?
(kuv) Ntxuav os.

Koj puas (xav) noj mov?
(kuv) noj os.

Koj puas (xav) mus tsev?
(kuv) Mus os.

2.

Koj puas (xav) nyeem ntawv?
(kuv) Tsis nyeem os.

Koj puas (xav) ntxuav tes?
(kuv) Tsis ntxuav os.

Koj puas (xav) noj mov?
(kuv) Tsis noj os.

Koj puas (xav) mus tsev?
(kuv) Tsis mus os.

Are you home?
Yes, I am.

Would you like to read?
Yes, I would.

Would you like to wash your
hands?
Yes, I would.

Do you want to eat?
Yes, I do.

Would you like to go home?
Yes, I would.

Would you like to read?
No, I would not.

Would you like to wash your
hands?
No, I would not.

Would you like to eat?
No, I would not.

Would you like to go home?
No, I would not.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM PLAUB

A: Txiv Ntxawm, kuv
yuav tsum mus.
Yuav tsaus ntuj lawm.

B: Txhob mus los mas.
Nrog peb pw ib hmos.

A: Tsis tau.

B: Yog li ces, mam mus koj os.

A: Sawv daws nyob zoo!

B: Mus ho tuaj os.

A: Aws, Aws.

Lwm zaug nej ho tuaj xyuas
peb thiab os.

LESSON FOUR

Uncle, I must be going.

It's getting dark.

Don't go.

Sleep over at our house one
night.

I can't.

If you insist, then, take
care.

Everyone stay well!

Please come again.

I will.

And you come visit us
sometime!

Vocabulary:

daws

sawv daws 'everyone'

ho 'then'

hmo 'night'

hmos (form of hmo occurring after
tone b and tone j)

lwm 'another, the next'

mam 'then, therefore'

Mam mus koj os! (Literally, 'then
you go' but means 'take care.'

ntuj 'sky'

tsaus ntuj 'to be dark, to
be nighttime'

ntxawm (see txiv ntxawm)

nyob zoo 'to be well'

pw 'to lie down, to sleep'

sawv daws 'everyone'

thiab 'also'

tsaus 'to be dark'

tsaus ntuj 'to be dark, to be
nighttime'

txiv ntxawm

(1) 'uncle' (father's
younger brother)

(2) polite form of
address to an older
man

txhob 'don't!'

zaug 'a time, an occasion'

zoo 'good, well'

nyob zoo 'to be well'

Pattern drills:

1:

Yuav tsaus ntuj lawm.

Yuav sov lawm.

Yuav no lawm.

It's getting dark.

It's getting warm.

It's getting cold.

2:

(tsis) Txhob mus los mas.

Nrog peb pw ib hmos.

Please don't go.

Sleep over at our house
one night.

(tsis) Txhob pw los mas.

Nrog peb tham ib pliag.

Please don't go to bed.

Talk with us for a while.

(tsis) Txhob rov qab mus los mas.

Nrog peb zaum ib pliag.

Please don't go back.

Sit with us for a while.

los mas (in this sense, it is acting like 'please')

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM TSIB

A: Kuv tuaj kawm lus Hmoob.
B: Los tsev os.
 Los zaum.
A: Qhov no hu li cas?
B: Hu ua "ib phau ntawv".
A: Qhov ntawd hu li cas?
B: Hu ua "ib tug cwj mem".
A: Puas yog hu ua "ntawv" no?
B: Yog.
A: Puas yog hu ua
 "lub rooj zaum"?
B: Tsis yog, hu ua "lub rooj" xwb. No, it's called "a table".

Vocabulary:

cas
 li cas? 'how?'
cwj mem 'pen'
hu 'to call'
hu ua 'to call' (in the sense
 of 'to call something by a
 certain name')
ib 'one, a'
li cas? 'how?'
lub (grammaticle partical used
 with nouns)
lub rooj 'table'
lub rooj zaum 'chair'
mem (cwj mem) 'pen'
no
 (1) 'this'
qhov no (demonst. pronoun)
 (2) particle used at the end
 of a sentence.

Pattern drill:

Koj tuaj dab tsi?

Kuv tuaj kawm lus Hmoob.
Kuv tuaj nyeem ntawv.
Kuv tuaj ntxuav tes.
Kuv tuaj haus dej.

LESSON FIVE

I have come to study Hmong.
Come in.
Sit down.
What's this called?
It's called "a book".
What's that called?
It's called "a pen".
Is this called "paper"?
Yes, that's right.
Is this called "a chair"?
No, it's called "a table".

ntawd 'that' (demonst. adj.)
 qhov ntawd 'that'
 (demonstrative pronoun)
ntawv 'paper'
phau ntawv 'book'
qhov no 'this' (demonstrative
 pronoun)
qhov ntawd 'that'
 (demonstrative pronoun)
rooj 'table'
rooj zaum 'chair'
tug (form of tus occurring
 after tone b and tone j)
tus (grammatical particle used
 with nouns)
tus cwj mem 'pen'
ua 'as' (see hu ua)
yog 'to be so', 'to be the case
 that ...'
zaum 'to sit'
 lub rooj zaum 'chair'

What have you come to do?

I've come to study Hmong.
I've come to read.
I've come to wash my hands.
I've come to drink some water.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM RAU

LESSON SIX

A: Koj ua dab tsi?
B: Kuv tab tom noj hmo.
A: Koj noj dab tsi?
B: Kuv tab tom noj ngaij nyug.

What are you doing?
I'm eating dinner.
What are you eating?
I'm eating beef.

Vocabulary:

hmo 'supper'
noj 'to eat'
ngaij 'meat'
ngaij nyug 'beef'
nyug (form of nyuj occurring after tone b and j)
nyuj 'cow, bull'
tab tom (grammatical particle placed before the verb to denote progressive aspect; similar in meaning to English be...-ing)

Pattern drills:

1.

Koj ua dab tsi?

What are you doing?

Kuv tab tom noj hmo.
Kuv tab tom haus dej.
Kuv tab tom cheb tsev.
Kuv tab tom ntxuav tais diav.
Kuv tab tom ntxuav tes.
Kuv tab tom ntxhua khaub ncaws.
Kuv tab tom nyeem ntawv.
Kuv tab tom nrhiav tus cwj mem.
Kuv tab tom so rooj.

I'm eating dinner.
I'm having a drink of water.
I'm sweeping the floor(house).
I'm washing dishes.
I'm washing my hands.
I'm washing clothes.
I'm reading.
I'm looking for a pen.
I'm wiping the table.

2.

Koj noj dab tsi?

What are you eating?

Kuv noj ngaij nyug.
Kuv noj ngaij ntse.
Kuv noj ngaij npuas.

I'm eating beef.
I'm eating fish.
I'm eating pork.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM XYA

A: Koj ua dab tsi?
B: Kuv ua vaj zaub.
A: Kuv tsis hnov koj
hais dab tsi.
B: Kuv hais tias kuv ua vaj zaub.

A: Nws ua dab tsi?
B: Nws ua hmo.
A: Kuv tsis to taub.
"Ua hmo" yog hais dab tsi?

B: "Ua hmo" yog "npaj zaub
npaj mov noj".

A: Nws ua dab tsi?
B: Kuv tsis paub.

Vocabulary:

hais 'to say'
yog hais 'to mean'
hnov 'to hear'
mov 'cooked rice'
nws 'he, she'
npaj 'to prepare'
paub 'to know'
taub (see to taub)
tias 'that '(conjunction)
to taub 'to understand'
ua 'to do, to make'
vaj 'garden'
yog 'to be'
yog hais 'to mean'
zaub 'vegetable'

Pattern Drills:

1.
Kuv ua vaj zaub.
Kuv tsis hnov koj hais dab tsi.
Kuv hais tias kuv ua vaj zaub.

Kuv nyeem ntawv.
Kuv tsis hnov koj hais dab tsi.
Kuv hais tias kuv nyeem ntawv.

Kuv ntxuav tes.
Kuv tsis hnov koj hais dab tsi.
Kuv hais tias kuv ntxuav tes.

LESSON SEVEN

What are you doing?
I'm making a garden.
I didn't hear what you said.

I said that I'm making a
garden.
What is he/she doing?
He/she is making supper.
I don't understand.
What does "making supper"
mean?
"Making supper" means
"preparing rice and
vegetables to eat".
What is he/she doing?
I don't know.

I'm making a garden.
I didn't hear what you said.
I said that I'm making
a garden.

I'm reading.
I didn't hear what you said.
I said that I'm reading.

I'm washing my hands.
I didn't hear what you said.
I said that I'm washing my
hands.

Kuv noj mov.
Kuv tsis hnov koj hais dab tsi.
Kuv hais tias kuv noj mov.

Kuv haus dej.
Kuv tsis hnov koj hais dab tsi.
Kuv hais tias kuv haus dej.

Kuv mus tsev.
Kuv tsis hnov koj hais dab tsi.
Kuv hais tias kuv mus tsev.

2.
Kuv ua vaj zaub.
Kuv tsis to taub.
"Ua vaj zaub" yog ua dab tsi?

Kuv nyeem ntawv.
Kuv tsis to taub.
"Nyeem ntawv" yog ua dab tsi?

Kuv noj mov.
Kuv tsis to taub.
"Noj mov" yog dab tsi?

Kuv haus dej.
Kuv tsis to taub.
"Haus dej" yog dab tsi?

Kuv mus tsev.
Kuv tsis to taub.
"Mus tsev" yog hais dab tsi?

3.
Nws ua dab tsi?

Nws npaj zaub noj.

Nws pub kuv txiv noj.

Nws nyeem ntawv rau kuv niam
mloog.

I'm eating.
I didn't hear what you said.
I said that I'm eating.

I'm drinking some water.
I didn't hear what you said.
I said that I'm drinking some
water.
I'm going home.
I didn't hear what you said.
I said that I'm going home.

I'm making a garden.
I don't understand.
What does "ua vaj zaub" mean?

I'm reading.
I don't understand.
What does "nyeem ntawv" mean?

I'm eating.
I don't understand.
What does "noj mov" mean?

I'm drinking some water.
I don't understand.
What does "haus dej" mean?

I'm going home.
I don't understand.
What does "mus tsev" mean?

What is he/she doing?

He/she's preparing vegetables
to eat.
He/she's giving it to my
father to eat.
He/she's reading to my mother
(literally "He/she's reading
to my mother to listen.")

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM YIM

A: Koj yuav mus tom khw hnuv twg?

B: Mus hnuv vas Xuv
los hnuv vas Xaum, kuv tseem
tsis tau paub.

A: Yog koj mus hnuv vas Xaum,
kuv xav nrog koj mus thiab.

B: Kuv yuav sawv kev mus thaum
plaub teev peb caug.

A: Pes tsawg teev wb mam
rov qab los?

B: Yog kuv nrhiav tau tej uas
kuv xav yuav, wb yuav rov
los thaum xya teev.

A: Thaum rau teev yog kuv los
tsis txog ntshai lawv twb
noj hmo tag lawm.

Vocabulary:

khw 'market'

hnuv vas Xuv 'Friday' (Lao van suk)

hnuv vas Xaum 'Saturday' (Lao van saq)

teev 'hour', 'o'clock'

nrhiav 'to look for'; nrhiav tau 'found'

tau (placed after the verb; makes the verb past tense)

tej uas 'those which', 'the things which'

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM CUAJ

A: Koj mus qhov twg?

B: Kuv mus kav khw.

A: Koj mus tod li cas?

B: Kuv yuav mus taw.

A: Nyob hov deb ntawm no?

B: Nyob deb ntawm no peb blov
nkaus xwb.

Vocabulary:

mus kav khw 'to go shopping'

blov (derived from 'block' in English)

LESSON EIGHT

What day are you going
shopping?

I don't know yet whether
it will be Friday or
Saturday.

If you go on Saturday, I
would like to go with you.
I'm leaving at four thirty.

What time will we get back?

If I can find the things
I need, we'll come back
at seven.

If I'm not home by six
I'm afraid I'll miss supper.

LESSON NINE

Where are you going?

I'm going shopping.

How are you going there?

I'm going to walk.

How far is it from here?

It's only three blocks from
here.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM

- A: Puag ta koj mus dab tsi lawm?
B: Kuv mus yuav khoom tom
 khw lawm.
A: Koj yuav tau dab tsi?
B: Kuv yuav tau ib co qe, ngaij
 qaib, zaub xav lav, zaub paj,
 piam thaj, thiab txhuv.

Vocabulary:

puag ta 'a little while ago'

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM IB

- A: Koj puas tau noj sus?
B: Tsis tau.
A: Koj puas tshaib plab?
B: Tshaib.
 Puas muaj tsev noj mov nyob
 ze ntawm no?
A: Nrog peb noj mov xwb los mas.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM OB

- A: Nrog peb noj mov os.
 Peb tsis muaj dab tsi noj
 ntxuag mov.
B: Ab! Qhov no ntxim qab kawg.
A: Noj zaub tsuag!
B: Ua tsaug.

Vocabulary:

ntxim 'to look'; 'to appear'
ntxuag 'with' (used after eat, e.g. eat with rice)
tsuag 'not salty'

LESSON TEN

- Where have you been?
I've been to the store.

What did you buy?
I bought some eggs, chicken,
lettuce, cauliflower, sugar,
and rice.

LESSON ELEVEN

- Have you had lunch yet?
No.
Are you hungry?
Yes.
Is there a restaurant near
here?
Why don't you eat with us.

LESSON TWELVE

- Eat with us.
We don't have anything special
to go with the rice.
Oh! this looks delicious.
Have some zaub tsuag!
Thank you.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM PEB

- A: Qhov no qab kawg.
Rov qab qhia kuv saib hu
li cas?
B: Hu ua "zaub tsuag."
A: Nej ua li cas?
B: Ua ntej rau dej rau.
Npau lawm, mam li npaws
zaub rau.
Koj puas xav haus ib khob
dej tshuaj yej?
A: Xav, ua tsaug.
B: Rau piam thaj los tsis rau?
A: Tsis rau.

Vocabulary:

saib 'to look', but here just a sentence connector.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM PLAUB

- A: Thaum koj mus tom lub vaj
tsiaj kuv xav nrog koj mus
thiab.
Tej neeg uas nyob ib ncig
ntawm peb tsev no xav nrog
koj mus thiab.
Peb sawv daws mus ua ke.
B: Tau.
Neeg coob haj yam zoo.
A: Peb tseg cov me nyuam
nrog kuv niam nyob.
Nws yuav zov lawv thiab lawv
yuav ua si ua ke.
B: Tsis txhob cia tod.
Peb coj cov me nyuam mus;
lawv yuav zoo siab
saib tej tsiaj thiab.
A: Yog peb ua li ntawd ntshai
yuav tsum muaj neeg zov lawv.
B: Kuv mam li zov lawv.

Vocabulary:

li ntawd 'like that'
mam li 'in that case'

LESSON THIRTEEN

This is very delicious.
Please tell me again what it
is called.
It's called "zaub tsuag."
How do you make it?
First you put in the water.
When it is boiling, then you
break vegetables into it.
Would you like a cup of tea?

Yes, thank you.
With or without sugar?
Without.

LESSON FOURTEEN

When you go to the zoo, I
would like to go with you.
Our neighbors want to go with
you too.
Let's go together.
Sure.
The more the merrier.
We'll leave the children with
my mother.
She will watch them and they
can play together.
No, don't leave them there.
We should take our children;
they will enjoy looking
at the animals too.
If we do that, then someone
will have to look after them.
I will watch them.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM TSIB

- A: Koj puas xav kom kuv coj
koj mus qhov twg?
B: Xav, yog tias nyob tsis
deb ntawm qhov koj yuav mus.
A: Koj mus qhov twg?
B: Kuv yuav tsum mus tom
Jacobson lub tsev muag khoom.
Qhov chaw no nyob rau
ntawm txoj ceg kaum kev
Maynard thiab Liberty.

Vocabulary:

ceg kaum 'corner'
qhov twg
(1) 'where?'
(2) 'anywhere'
yuav tsum 'must, ought, have to'

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM RAU

- A: Kuv tuaj xyuas koj saib koj
puas muaj paj ntaub muag.
B: Peb muaj hos.
Koj puas xav saib?
A: Xav.
Daim no zoo nkauj kawg.
B: Muaj ib daig loj dua
nov thiab.
Koj puas xav saib?
A: Kuv xav saib thiab.
Kuv xav yuav daim me no.
Nqe li cas?
B: Tsib caug dos las.
A: Pheej yig kawg.

LESSON FIFTEEN

Can I give you a ride some-
where?
Yes, if it's not out of your
way.
Where are you going?
I have to get to Jacobson's
department store.
It's on the corner of Maynard
and Liberty.

LESSON SIXTEEN

I've come to see if you have
any paj ntaub to sell.
Yes, we do.
Would you like to see them?
Yes, please.
Oh, this one is very
beautiful.
We also have one that is
larger.
Would you like to see it?
Yes, I would.
I would like to buy this small
one.
How much is it?
Fifty dollars.
That's very inexpensive.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM XYA

- A: Nyob zoo.
B: Nyob zoo.
Koj tuaj dab tsi?
A: Nej puas muaj khaub ncaws
Hmoob muag?
B: Peb tsis muaj muag.

Peb muaj cev puav cia
saib xwb.
Nov yog txoj phuam.
Poj niam ntoo phuam saum
lawv lub taub hau.
Nov yog daim tiab Hmoob
Ntsuab.
Hmoob Dawb hnav tiab Hmoob
Ntsuab vim tiab Hmoob Ntsuab
zoo nkauj.
A: Daim tiab Hmoob Ntsuab zoo
nkauj kawg tiag.
Nej puas muaj lwm yam rau
kuv xyuas ntxiv thiab?
B: Tam sim no peb tsis muaj.
Lwm lub lim piam yog koj
tuae mas nyaj peb yuav muaj.
A: Ua tsaug.
Cia lwm lub lim piam tso
kuv mam li tuaj.

Vocabulary:

Lim piam 'week' (Many people, however, use 'as thiv', from Lao.)

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM YIM

- A: Koj tuaj los.
Los tsev os.
B: Kuv tuaj xyuas koj lub
tsheb tshiab.
A: Tau.
Koj puas xav caij?
B: Cia kuv zaum qhov twg?
A: Zaum pem hauv ntej.
** ** **
B: Saib!
Tus txiv neej ntawd tsav
tsheb ceev heev.
A: Los nag hlob hlob nws
yuav tsum maj mam tsav.

LESSON SEVENTEEN

- Hello
Hello.
What can I do for you?
Do you have any Hmong clothing
to sell?
We don't have anything that
we're selling.
We have some just to look at.

This is txoj phuam.
Women wear it on their heads.

This is a Hmoob Ntsuab skirt.

Hmoob Dawb wear Hmoob
Ntsuab skirts because Hmoob
Ntsuab skirts are beautiful.
Yes, Hmoob Ntsuab skirts are
really beautiful.
Do you have any other Hmong
things I can look at?
Right now we don't.
Next week if you come back we
may have something.
Thank you.
So next week I'll come back.

LESSON EIGHTEEN

- Hello.
Come in.
I came to look at your new
car.
Go ahead.
Would you like a ride?
Where should I sit?
Sit up in front.
** ** **
Look!
That man is driving very fast.

It's raining hard. He should
drive slowly.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM CUAJ

- B: Kuv xav tsav me ntsis.
Koj puas kam?
A: Kam thiab, tiam sis koj
ua tib zoo tsav zoo zoo.
B: Koj lub tsheb txawv kuv lub.
A: Txawv li cas?
B: Kuv lub tsheb tsis muaj xov
tooj cua thiab tsis loj
npaum li koj lub.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM NEES NKAUM

- A: Koj nyob kem tsev no ntev
li cas lawm?
B: Ob xyoos.
Txij puag thaum kuv tuaj
nyob lub tebchaws no.
A: Koj yuav nyob ntev li cas
ntxiv thiab?
B: Kuv yuav nyob qhov no
mus txog thaum kuv yuav
tau kuv ib lub tsev tso.
A: Koj tab tom nrhiav tsev yuav,
puas yog?
B: Tsis yog.
Kuv tsis tau muaj nyiaj
txaus yuav.

LESSON NINETEEN

- I'd like to drive a little.
May I?
Yes, but drive carefully.
Your car is different from
mine.
How?
My car doesn't have a radio
and is not as large as yours.

LESSON TWENTY

- How long have you lived in
this apartment?
Two years.
Since I came to this country.
How much longer will you live
here?
I will live here until I buy
a house of my own.
Are you looking for a house to
buy now?
No.
I can't afford to buy a house
yet.